

and Independents—will rise to the challenge of the moment and validate our powerful claim to the value of bipartisanship when it must serve the public interest.

Senator Byrd and I engaged in partisan warfare more than either of us would like to acknowledge today, but even in the midst of such warfare, we knew we were serving an important political purpose: giving voice to the full range of public opinion on matters of national importance.

That is the basis for the Senate's claim to being the "world's greatest deliberative body." America's Founders did not design the Senate as a model of efficiency but as a vessel of democracy, into which the Nation's passions could be poured to cool, and from which the Nation's collective wisdom could be discerned.

The two-party system, which the Founders did not design and from which many of them would have recoiled, has had a similarly steadying influence on our national life.

Two broad-based political parties have over the centuries become very effective means of communicating the public's views to their government, particularly through the legislative branch.

Partisanship has its place—and it is an honorable and useful place—in public life, and those who disdain it often do not understand its value in venting the full expression of our citizens' demands and dissents.

But the greatest of America's Founders—George Washington—feared "factions" above all, and I share his fear that political hostility can overcome the better angels of our nature in some future hour of national peril.

Too often in today's Washington, I see a refusal to hear, much less respect, a differing point of view. I see a refusal to even try to understand the other person's argument. This is new, in my experience, and it is not healthy.

Robert Kennedy was a young lawyer who served as minority counsel in the Army-McCarthy hearings. I was chosen by Ray Jenkins, a great Tennessee trial lawyer, to assist him in the hearings. By the way, my principal responsibility was reading the daily transcripts! Robert Kennedy and I became quick friends because we had much in common—we were within days of each other in age, had World War II experience, and we shared an enthusiasm for convertibles, although his Cadillac put my Ford to shame.

When we returned to Washington years later as Senators ourselves, just after the assassination of President Kennedy and in the early years of the Vietnam war, we and our colleagues—including Bob Byrd—knew that some things were more important than partisanship.

Having served in the waning days of World War II, we knew that the capacity for calamity in human affairs was almost limitless—and we knew how much the rest of the world looked to the United States for leadership and example.

The men and women of today's Congress know about war, and terror, and now you know how quickly a strong economy can spiral out of control without constant vigilance.

These are sobering events in momentous times, and it is useful for the ordinary men and women serving in this Capitol today to know that others before them rose to similar extraordinary challenges and rescued their country from harm.

"What is past is prologue," the National Archives reminds us. "Study the past." That is what the United States Capitol Historical Society has been encouraging us and enabling us to do for many years.

I thank you for that valuable service. I am humbled by your tribute. And I am honored to be in your company tonight.

HONORING LOUIS DE LA PARTE

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Ms. CASTOR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to praise the lifetime achievements of distinguished Tampa lawyer and Florida legislator Louis de la Parte. Mr. de la Parte was honored for his unselfish compassion and courage to voice his beliefs on causes, even against popular opposition. He was a noble public servant and lived to help his family, friends, and community.

Mr. de la Parte was born in Ybor City, Tampa, and grew up with his mother, a homemaker, and his father, who ran a men's clothing store, whom Louis helped out during the summer. His grandmother lived in public housing in Tampa, and his large family came from a modest background. He used his experience growing up around people less fortunate than he to help out his community and voice the opinions of those who could not be heard. He graduated from Jesuit High School in Tampa in 1946 and received his bachelor of arts degree in psychology from Emory University in 1950. His articulate leadership and natural ability for persuasion led him to earn his juris doctor from the University of Florida.

After law school he joined the Air Force and started a family. He worked as a prosecutor but soon discovered that many of the problems that he was prosecuting could be avoided through science and the more effective delivery of mental health services. This revelation led Mr. de la Parte to run for public office. He served as a Democratic member of the Florida House of Representatives from 1962 through 1966 and the Senate from 1966 through 1974. He served his final year in the legislature as senate president.

During his time in office, he built the Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services to assist the poor, mentally disabled, elderly, and sick. He avidly promoted environmental legislation and educational programs in prisons.

A dedicated family man, Mr. de la Parte was deeply loved by his family. His wife and two children would follow him to work sometimes, carrying his briefcase for him. Mr. de la Parte loved to have big family dinners on Sundays, and to take his family on travels all around the world, particularly to those places he had been while serving in the Air Force. The de la Parte family is a Tampa treasure.

Mr. de la Parte worked in private practice with his son for 4 years. He retired in 1990, when he began to develop the early symptoms of Alzheimer's disease. To congratulate his dedication to progress in the area of mental health, in 1996 the Florida Mental Health Institute at the University of South Florida was named after Mr. de la Parte.

Madam Speaker, Louis de la Parte was a man of the highest regard who dedicated his life to the public good. He will be greatly missed by the State of Florida. My thoughts are with his wife, Helen, his children, Peggy and L. David, and the entire de la Parte family.

HONORING THE KIWANIS CLUB OF ASTORIA—LONG ISLAND CITY

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to pay tribute to the Kiwanis of Astoria—Long Island City for its outstanding work in supporting philanthropic and community organizations serving the people of western Queens.

This year, the Kiwanis Club named as its Man of the Year Panagiotis Manolas, M.D., Chief of Surgery at Mount Sinai Hospital of Queens. Born and educated in Greece, Dr. Manolas immigrated to America to complete his studies. Certified by the American Board of Surgery, he has developed a highly successful multi-specialty practice in general, breast and laparoscopic surgery. Named a "New York Super Doctor" and one of the "Best Doctors in New York", he is devoted to his patients, often providing his services pro bono or on a sliding scale.

The Kiwanis Club is naming as its Women of the Year several deserving honorees. These include: Rose Anne Alafogiannis, past president of the Kiwanis Club and member of Queens Community Board #1, the Astoria Civic Association, SHAREing & CAREing, and a Lector for the Immaculate Conception parish;

Donna Furey, an Astoria native, Kiwanis Club member, and attorney specializing in elder law who serves as a member of the board of St. John's University School of Law Alumni Association and the Queens County Women's Bar Association and who has dedicated herself to helping local seniors;

Roberta Gualtieri, a life-long Astoria resident who has served countless hours as a volunteer at the Steinway Senior Center, the Kiwanis Club, the 114th Police Precinct, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Roman Catholic Church, St. John's Hospital emergency room, and with literacy programs for underprivileged youth;

Laura Jean Hawkins, a longtime community activist and lecturer who served for many years as Chief of Staff to former Assemblyman Denis Butler and advocate for non-profit groups like SHAREing & CAREing, a breast and ovarian cancer support group;

Teresa Jarnich, a member of the Kiwanis Club of Astoria—Long Island City and a volunteer with its Christmas Auction and Anti-Crime programs;

Christine Lolas, an Athens native who immigrated to the U.S. to launch her career in the banking industry. She is active in the Kiwanis Club, the 30th Avenue Business Association, and serves on the Advisory Board of SHAREing & CAREing;

Anna Kril, the founder of SHAREing & CAREing, Inc. She serves on the Board of Directors of the New York City Health & Hospitals Corporation, on the Executive Board of the Community Advisory Board of Elmhurst Hospital Center, as Chairperson of the Health Committee of Queens Community Board #1 in Queens, and as a member of the Kiwanis Club;

Vera Martucci, who, although widowed at an early age, still devoted herself to serving others by volunteering to assist immigrants through the International Ladies Garment